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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/629,398	07/29/2003	Sarah Zeller	200209155-1	7218

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, ANTHONY H

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2854

DATE MAILED: 03/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/629,398

Applicant(s)

ZELLER ET AL.

Examiner

Anthony H. Nguyen

Art Unit

2854

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 January 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 6-10 and 12-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 6-10 and 12-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) a patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1,3,8, 10,12, 15,17 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Sato (US 2002/0159805) in view of Hashimoto et al. (US 6,445,903).

With respect to claims 1,3,8,10,12, 15, 17 and 21, Sato teaches an image forming apparatus and a method for directing and passing a print media through a print mechanism 1 including a main paper path for guiding the print media through a fusing apparatus 151, a media flipper 52 which engages and drives the printed media in a first direction along the path 46 to a discharge tray 42 via a redirector 56 after printing on the media and in a second opposite direction toward one of the second path 45 to the discharge tray 43 and the third path to duplex path 152 via the path 46 (Sato, Figs.3,4,8,11,12, 18 and the paragraph [082]). Sato does not teach the stacker mounted in proximity to the fuser. Hashimoto et al. teaches a printer having a stacker 2 mounted in proximity to the fuser apparatus as shown in Figs.1 and 3 of Hashimoto et al. In view of the teaching of Hashimoto et al., it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the image forming apparatus of Sato by providing the stacker as taught by Hashimoto et al. to improve the efficiency of production of a printer.

Claims 2, 6, 9, 13, 16 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Sato in view of Hashimoto et al. as applied to claims 1,3,8, 10,12, 15,17 and 21 above, and further in view of Muraoka et al. (US 6,353,727).

With respect to claims 2, 9 and 16, Sato and Hashimoto et al. teach all that is claimed, except for the foldable tray for holding output. Muraoka et al. teaches a conventional foldable tray for holding output as shown in Figs. 4B and 8B in which the main tray is unobstructed by the foldable tray. In view of the teaching of Muraoka et al., it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the printer and steps of Sato and Hashimoto et al. by providing a foldable tray as taught by Muraoka et al. for reducing the size of a printer.

Claims 7, 14 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Sato in view of Hashimoto et al. as applied to claims 1,3,8, 10,12, 15,17 and 21 above, and further in view of Katsuyama et al. (US 6,690,901).

Sato and Hashimoto et al. teach all that is claimed, except the print system which is a color print system. Katsuyama et al. teaches a printer having a color print system 5 as shown in Fig.2 of Katsuyama et al. In view of the teaching of Katsuyama et al., it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the printer and steps of Hashimoto et al. by substituting the color print system as taught by Katsuyama et al. for ensuring optimal print quality in place of the printing system 6,7 of Hashimoto et al.

Response to Arguments

Applicants' arguments filed on January 06, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive of any error in the above rejection.

Applicant argues that Sato and Hashimoto et al. do not teach or suggest the printer having the media flipper or driver that engages and moves media in a first direction along the paper

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path or the second opposite direction towards one of a second path and a third path. Also, applicant argues that Sato and Hashimoto et al. do not teach or suggest the redirector (claim 1), the redirection means (claim 15) or director (claim 21). Specifically, applicant argues that Sato does not teach or suggest the sheet media which is reversed by the roller 52 or rollers 54 and 57.

However, as explained above, Sato teaches clearly the print mechanism, a fuser, a media flipper which feeds a sheet of media in a main path in a first direction or in a second opposite direction towards one of the second path or the third path (as clearly shown in Sato, Figs. 12, 14, 15 and the paragraph [082]). Note that the flapper of Sato meets the structure of the redirector (claim 1) or redirection means (claim 15) or a director 56 (claim 21) that guides the sheet in the feeding path. Clearly, Sato teaches that the sheet is fed in opposite direction "by reversing the second sheet discharging roller 52" (Sato, paragraph [0081]) and "by using the sheet discharging path 46 also as the sheet reversing path" (Sato, paragraph [083]). Hashimoto et al. teaches clearly the stacker which is mounted in proximity to the fuser. Therefore, the combination of Sato and Hashimoto renders the structure as recited in claims 1, 3, 8, 10, 12, 15, 17 and 21.

Also, Muraoka teaches the conventional use of the foldable tray for holding the output therefore the combination of Sato, Hashimoto and Muraoka et al. renders the structure as recited in claims 2, 6, 9, 13, 16 and 19. Katsuyama et al. teaches the conventional use of the color print system therefore, the combination of Sato, Hashimoto and Katsuyama et al. renders the structure as recited in claims 7, 14 and 20.

Conclusion

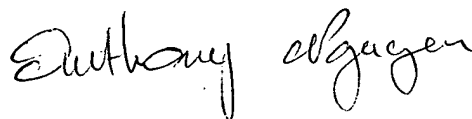
THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anthony Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-2169. The examiner can normally be reached daily from 9 AM to 5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld, can be reached on (571) 272-2168.

The fax phone number for this Group is (571) 273-8300.



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03/17/2006
Patent Examiner
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